Faculty of Health and Social Sciences
Distinguished Lecture Series

A social robot called Paro and its effect on people living with dementia

Date: 2 April 2019 (Tuesday)
Time: 2:30pm-3:30pm
Venue: AG710, PolyU Campus

Abstract
Apathy, agitation, loneliness and depression are common behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD). These symptoms can make life distressing for the person with dementia and can also make it challenging for care staff to meet the care needs of the person. Psychosocial interventions are known to have more efficacy compared to pharmacological interventions. In recent years, social robots have been used as a means to reduce BPSD. In this lecture, Prof. Moyle will present the findings from a cluster-randomised controlled trial with three groups: a robotic pet-type animal (Paro), a non-robotic pet-type animal (Plush-Toy), and usual care (control). Older people (n=415) with a diagnosis of dementia and living in 28 long-term care facilities participated in the trial in South East Queensland, Australia. The intervention consisted of three Individual 15-minute non-facilitated sessions with Paro or Plush-Toy per week for ten weeks. This allowed both short-term (5-weeks) and long-term follow-up (10-weeks), and sustainability following the withdrawal of the intervention (15-weeks). The presentation provides an overview of the primary outcomes of engagement, mood, and agitation and secondary outcomes of sleep, quality of life, and quality of dementia care.

Cultivating an interdisciplinary research community on ageing

Date: 3 April 2019 (Wednesday)
Time: 10:00am-11:00am
Venue: AG710, PolyU Campus

Abstract
An ageing population is one of the world’s most significant current and future challenges and this will continue to raise numerous research questions. However, to address the many new and complex questions this phenomenon raises will require new breeds of researchers and in particular well-prepared interdisciplinary research teams. In this lecture, Prof. Moyle will discuss some of the challenges and opportunities of interdisciplinary research on ageing through a demonstration of her own research pathways where she works across science, health and the arts and draws upon researchers’ disparate skills to reframe research questions, to build new areas of research, and to extend clinically relevant practice. She will discuss some of the barriers she has helped to knock down and the lessons learned in cultivating an interdisciplinary research community in ageing research.